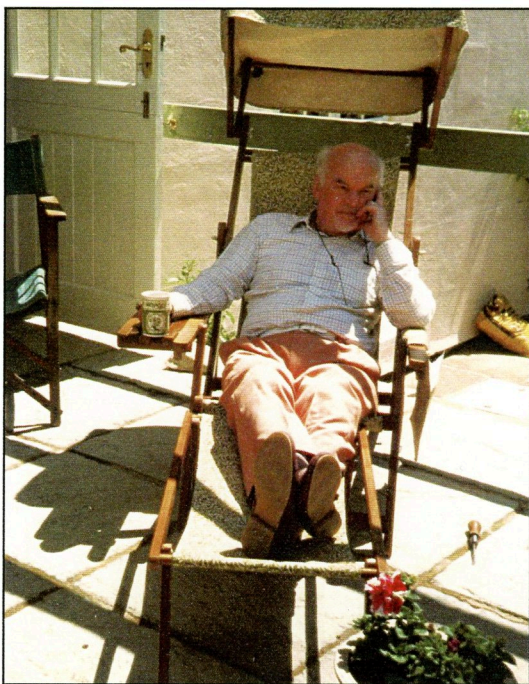


A Celebration of the Life of

# Tony Page

5th June 1928 – 16th March 2015



St. Mary's Church, Bampton

Tuesday 24th March 2015

2.30 p.m.



## Welcome

The Reverend David Lloyd

## Hymn

*"Morning has Broken"*

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning;  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation! Praise every morning  
God's re-creation of the new day.

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

## Reading

## Prayers



## A Tribute to Tony

### Hymn

*"Lord of the Dance"*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die:

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance and I still go on:

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the dance said he:

### Reading

### Closing Music



When I am dead  
Cry for me a little  
Think of me sometimes  
But not too much.  
Think of me now and again  
As I was in life  
At some moments it's pleasant to recall  
But not for long.  
Leave me in peace  
And I shall leave you in peace  
And while you live  
Let your thoughts be with the living.

*Traditional Indian Prayer*

Lis, Mary Ann and Martin would like to thank the doctors  
and nursing staff at Bampton Surgery and Cherry Care Services.  
We would also like to thank the many friends  
who have offered their help and support.

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Donations in memory of Tony will go to  
The Bampton Old Grammar School Restoration Fund  
and  
The Bampton Zimbabwe Project.  
These may be left in the collection plate or sent c/o  
E. Taylor & Son,  
21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxfordshire OX18 3LG

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Following the celebration you are invited to join  
the family at Eagle House, Church View.



If I should die before the rest of you  
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone  
Nor, when I'm gone, speak in a Sunday voice.  
But be the usual joyful folk that I have known.  
Weep if you must.  
For parting is hell  
But life goes on.  
So sing as well.

*Joyce Grenfell*

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

**PAGE.**—TONY. Peacefully at home in Bampton, Oxfordshire on 16th March aged 86. Much loved husband to Lis, father to Mary Ann and Martin, grandfather to Joshua. Memorial Service at St. Mary's Church, Bampton on Tuesday 24th March at 2.30 p.m. No flowers.

# Tony involved in some TV classics

A BAMPTON community volunteer who was a former Associated Television executive has died, aged 86.

Tony Page worked for ATV between 1956 and 1988, rising from the position of assistant studio manager to scheduler and planner.

He was involved in productions at the company's Elstree Studios near London, including *The Muppet Show*, *Edward the Seventh*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* and music shows featuring Bing Crosby and Barbara Streisand.

After retiring from ATV, the grandfather-of-one moved to Bampton with his family and became involved with the Bampton Archive.

The archive puts on several exhibitions each year and has featured Mr Page's printed catalogues, as well as some books about the ITV television show *Downton Abbey's* association with the parish.

Mr Page was born in Nottingham on June 5, 1928 to parents Charles and Mary.

His family moved to Edinburgh, and he was a pupil at George He-

**Matt Oliver**  
moliver@nqo.com  
01865 425500

riot's School, an independent school. As a teenager he ran away from home to join a ballet company and pursue a career in showbusiness.

He started off working as a stage hand but eventually progressed to the role of stage manager with a theatre troupe based in York that travelled the UK.

During periods when he was out of work in London, he even spent some nights on the Thames Embankment.

During the Second World War he worked with British producer – and RAF intelligence officer at the time – Ralph Reader.

Mr Reader's now-renowned gang shows toured military sites and also provided cover for him to carry out his intelligence tasks.

Due to his experience, Mr Page was drafted in to work as a stage manager on a show featuring hundreds of people, including a young Tony Hancock.

After the war ended, Mr Page's theatre work dried up and he returned to Edinburgh.

But by 1954 the Television Act 1954 had been passed, opening up an industry previously closed to all but the BBC, and in 1956 he took a job at one of the new broadcasters, Associated Television.

Mr Page worked as an assistant studio manager at first, later becoming floor manager and head of floor managers at the Elstree studios, just north of London.

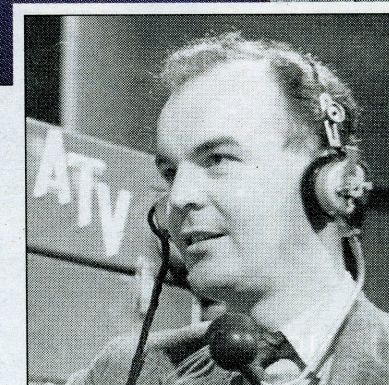
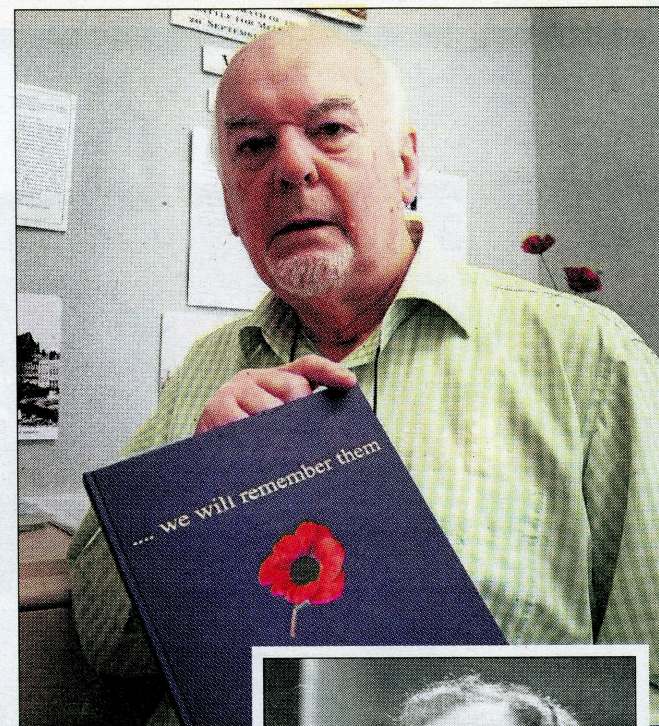
In the 1970s he was made schedules controller and planning officer and was involved in several well-known productions while working closely with media magnate and ATV founder Lew Grade.

When the broadcaster became Central Television in 1982, Mr Page went with the company to Birmingham and then retired in 1988.

He married his wife Lis, nee Read, on June 4, 1960, and they had two children, Martin in 1963 and Mary-Ann in 1967.

Mr Page died on March 16 after suffering from bowel and liver cancer. A funeral took place on March 24 at Oxford Crematorium.

He is survived by his wife, two children and grandson Joshua.



**Tony Page was involved in helping to stage exhibitions in Bampton, including one on local soldiers killed in conflict. Right, Mr Page during his years at Associated Television**

# Pictures tell the story of brave men who gave their lives

# Exhibition recalls a

# village's war heroes

By Dan Robinson

witney@witneygazette.co.uk

FROM soliders killed by poisonous gas to horses massacred in battle, a new exhibition is not intended to cover the horrors of war lightly.

Tony Page, who spent two years putting it together, said he "pulled no punches" in illustrating the war in the Bampton Library display.

The exhibition, called We Will Remember Them, pays tribute to 61 soldiers with connections to the village killed between 1914 and the present day, marking the centenary of the First World War.

It also includes general sections, including photographs showing people killed by gas and horses being shot during the Great War.

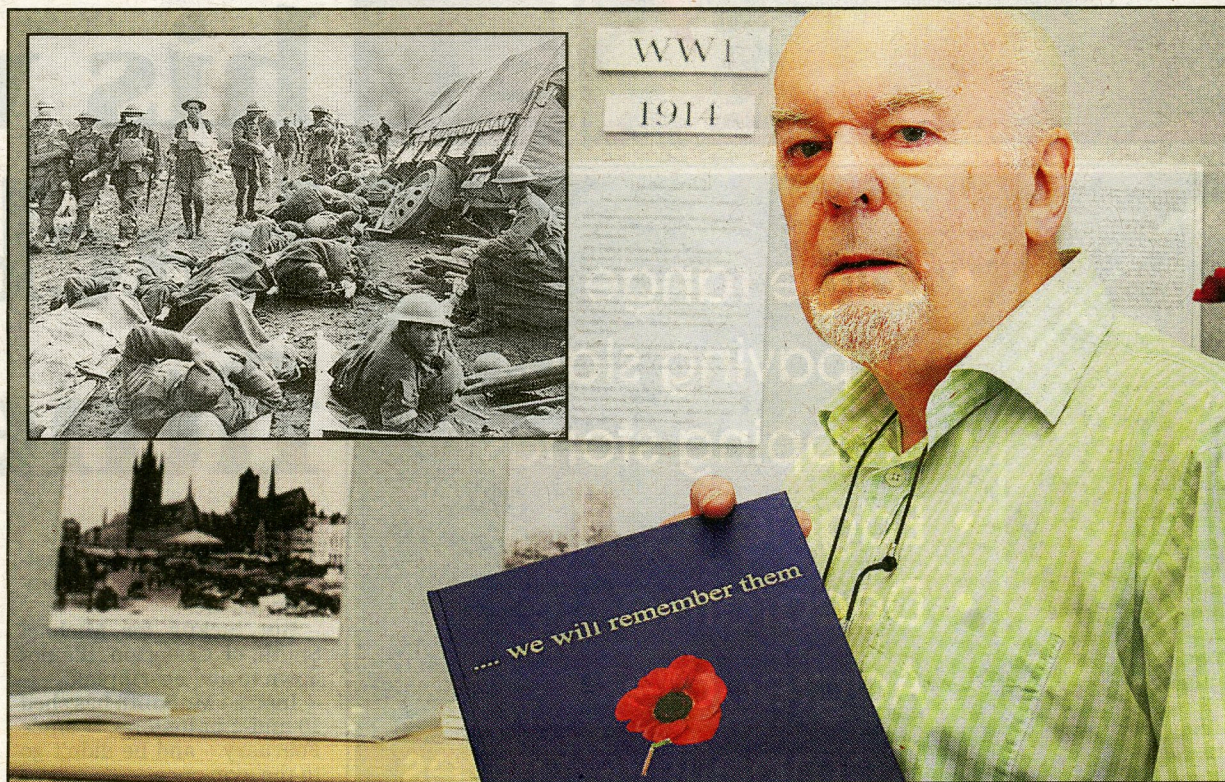
Bampton Community Archive group member Mr Page, 86 said: "I haven't pulled any punches in this exhibition because that's what war is all about.

"But there's a bit of humour among it as well.

"I just felt that we should do something to remember the people on the war memorials, rather than just their names being chiselled in a bit of concrete.

"It got quite emotional at times while reading some of the reports, including some of the ridiculous things that soldiers had to do and how they died.

"I got quite involved with particular people and there



**'QUITE EMOTIONAL':** Tony Page and, inset, a picture showing the aftermath of the Battle of Menin, September 20, 1917, one of the exhibits on display

Picture: OX70222 Richard Cave

were occasions when I just had to stop because it was all too much. They were all pretty run-of-the-mill, ordinary people doing what they were told to do."

Bampton resident Mr Page served in the RAF as an aircraftsman at various bases, including RAF Marston Moor, between 1946 and 1948.

As well as the exhibition, he also compiled a 132-page book, including two pages

for most soldiers with biographies and photographs of either the person or the battle in which they died. It merges the village's three memorials in the Market Place, St Mary's Church and Bampton Post Office.

There are 53 servicemen from the First World War, seven from the Second World War and Private Jason Mackie, of the Royal Marines 3rd Armoured Support Group, who was

killed in Afghanistan in May 2009, aged 21.

Pt Mackie's mum Lee Mackie, 59, who lives in Bampton, called it a "lovely idea". She said: "It's always a positive when things are done to make sure that sacrifices have been made are remembered.

The exhibition in the library's Vesey Room runs from today until November 30. The book is also available to buy at the library.









Eulogy by Martin Page for his father Tony Page

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1928 – March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

As a child, growing up during the war, dad claimed that Hitler bombed him out of every city that his family moved to but eventually they ended up in Edinburgh.

When he was in his teens he ran away from home to London leaving the proverbial note on his parents' mantelpiece. He had decided to go into show business. During the next few years he had a variety of jobs working in the theatre as a Stage Manager for musical comedies, repertory, touring and his first love, ballet. Sometimes there were gaps with no work and he had to sleep on the London Embankment.

After a while the work dried up and he moved back to Edinburgh. One day he went to a social club with his friend Fred. When an attractive young lady walked in to the room, he commented to Fred that he quite liked the look of her and, after a bit of encouragement from Fred, he introduced himself to Lis, mum.

Although they spent some time together, she then got a work opportunity in Bilbao in Spain and disappeared for a whole year.

When she returned they ran into each other again having driving lessons from the same instructor. It was the start of a long and happy relationship.

With the start of commercial television in 1956 he landed a job as Assistant Studio Manager with ATV in London, with the princely salary of £12 a week.

Mum and Dad were married in 1960 and moved to Redbourn in Hertfordshire. Here Mary Ann and I were born. This was a happy time for us all and we still look back on those days with fond memories.

We had quite a large garden and here dad discovered a love for gardening and spent hours cultivating the vegetable patch and growing geraniums in ever larger greenhouses.

Eventually he moved in to management at ATV, working closely with Lord Lew Grade. He was involved in many very successful television productions of the time and was particularly proud to have been involved in the setting up of The Muppet Show. Mary Ann and I had regular visits to the studios with our friends to see The Muppet Show being recorded.

When his job was moved to Birmingham the family had to relocate to Mavesyn Ridware in Staffordshire.

But the work had changed and he no longer enjoyed what he was doing so he took early retirement.

This gave him the opportunity to spend more time pursuing another of his interests, history, and he was one of the founder members of the local History

Society which is still flourishing today. He also did a lot of work for the village church, restoring paneling, mowing the churchyard and helping with general maintenance.

I was now living in Birmingham with Annie, and Mary Ann was in St Albans with Andy, so, as the house was now too big for them, they decided to move to somewhere that was half way between the two of us and after a long search they eventually found Eagle House here in Bampton.

Shortly afterwards Annie and I moved to Mallorca, which rather messed up the original plan but it did give them the opportunity for lots of holidays.

7 years ago Mary Ann and Andy had a son, Josh, Mum and Dad's first grandchild, and I know that the time that he spent with Josh was very special to him and I am sure that when Josh grows up he will look back fondly on the times that he spent with his grandfather.

In Bampton Dad and Mum started the Bampton Zimbabwe Project and they both became involved with the Bampton Archive. This gave him a new interest as he developed his desktop publishing skills, doing all the printing, putting together the "Downton Abbey in Bampton" books and recently mounting the "We Will Remember Them" exhibition to commemorate the outbreak of the first World War, a project which took him two years of research.

As I have not lived here in Bampton, I don't know many people here, but over the past couple of weeks I have had the chance to meet quite a few and also to read the many cards and letters that mum has received. The over-riding impression that I have had is of how well regarded he was in the village. Someone described him as a doer and I think that that sums him up, rather than talking about things, he liked to make things happen.

Since Annie and I moved to Mallorca we have spent a lot more time with mum and dad as they used to come out twice a year for 2 or 3 weeks at a time. He used to spend much of his time there working in our garden and in particular looking after the geraniums of which there are many. Whenever they arrived at our house, before unloading the suitcases from the car, he used to do an inspection of the geraniums with me following behind waiting to be praised for looking after them well, or told off for not feeding them enough.

And that is how I will remember him. In the Mallorcan sunshine, wearing his Panama hat and tending to the geraniums.

Witney Gazette April 15th 2015. The article is about Tony Page from Eagle House in Bampton. Tony was in at the beginning of the Bampton Community Archive and did all the printing for the charity up to his death. It was through Tony's sheer hard work and imagination that sufficient funds were acquired that enabled the Archive to buy the necessary IT equipment which has enabled us to create and keep adding to the digital archive of Bampton and surrounding villages. Apart from printing for the Archive, Tony did items for many other clubs and societies in Bampton.

Tony and Lis Page came from Staffordshire to live in Bampton in 1998 and right from the start both Tony and Lis have played a hugely active role in Bampton life. Our Community Archive began in late 2002 and it was soon realised that we would need a steady income to enable us to record all the information that was being gathered. Tony designed and printed several things and wrote a small book on the history of Ham Court, also referred to as Bampton Castle. He designed and printed the catalogues of our exhibitions which were then sold. Tony's work accounted for a good 80% of our income and so it continued to his death. The work of the Archive would not have happened without Tony's huge input.

Tony spent almost every waking minute working for Bampton Community Archive. From its early days Tony began printing items for sale that enabled us to purchase the digital equipment needed for the Archive to do its work. He designed all the catalogues from our exhibitions and created posters and tickets for other clubs and societies in Bampton. Tony and his wife Lis came to live in Bampton in 1998 and right from the start they both gave all their free time to the Archive and Bampton.